

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



...Connections.....

Linking kids with nature across the Forest Service...

December 2008

In This Issue

Happy Holidays!
Climate Change
Symposium
MonarchLIVE
Green Schools Initiative
Smokey's 65th Birthday
E-Commerce Coming to
Symbols Cache
Woodsy Owl & Head
Start
KIW Photo Contest

Quick Links

CE Website
NICE Reporting
System

MonarchLIVE!
More About the FS



Happy Holidays!

All across the Forest Service, you are doing amazing work to connect kids with nature through meaningful experiences. Whether working with kids in classrooms, or at camps, or at National Fishing Days--you are making a difference in the lives of more than 6 million people, including children -- and positive impacts on the future of the Forest Service, and the public lands we cherish.

As the New Year approaches, we are trying something new in Conservation Education-WO. This simple e-mail newsletter will be one way that we continue to highlight the good work that happens in Conservation Education, here in the Washington Office, and across the Forest Service. Please let me know what you think!

Have a safe and memorable holiday season -- and let's start the New Year with a resolution to continue our good work, and look for new opportunities, to connect children with nature and build environmental literacy. --Safiya Samman

Climate Change Symposium Offered at NSTA, 2009

Working in partnership with NOAA and the Sally Ride Science Foundation, the Conservation Education program will present a teacher's symposium at the 2009 National Science Teachers' Association conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in March 2009.

The symposium will feature FS resources and scientists. Dr. Barbara McDonald will share the [Natural Inquirer](#) science journal; Dr. Steve McNulty of the Southern Research Station will discuss the role of forests in carbon sequestration, and Dr. Dave Bloniarz of the Northern Research Station will discuss the use of the [iTree](#) tool for teachers.

For more information, contact Vicki Arthur, varthur@fs.fed.us, 202-401-4068



MonarchLIVE Broadcasts in February

The second installment of the exciting MonarchLIVE-A Distance Learning Adventure, will take place on February 17 & 19, 2009. These live, interactive broadcasts will take classrooms to the butterfly forests of Michoacan Mexico. The first broadcast, on Tuesday, February 17, will focus on the overwintering habitat of the monarch. The second broadcast, on Thursday, February 19, will focus on the work of NGOs and the government to promote sustainable development for the surrounding communities.

The programs are available free of charge, and are provided in both English and Spanish. Please visit the program web site at <http://monarch.pwnet.org> to register -- and become part of the adventure!

For more information, contact: Sandy Frost; sfrost@fs.fed.us 202-205-3761

CE and PLT Launch Green Schools Initiative



The Forest Service Conservation Education (CE) office has partnered with [Project Learning Tree](#) (PLT) to develop and implement a new GreenSchools! environmental education initiative. The initiative will provide:

- Professional Development for Teachers and environmental education for students;
- Green School Investigations (GSIs)
- Grants for Service Learning Projects

The pilot program will be provided to five D.C. schools in 2009. The GreenSchools! initiative will also be piloted in Baltimore, Houston, Kansas City, and Iowa in 2009 through a grant to PLT from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

For more information, contact Safiya Samman, ssamman@fs.fed.us, 202-205-1241

Smokey Bear Turns 65!

My Goodness! Did you realize that 2009 marks the 65th birthday of Smokey Bear? The [Symbols Program](#) and Fire & Aviation Management are working together to create a 'toolkit' of goodies to help you celebrate Smokey's big day in style.

For more information, contact Iris Velez, ivelez@fs.fed.us, 202-205-0991

On-line Ordering for Symbols Cache is in the Works -- We're Going Green!

By the end of FY 2009, you should be able to order all your Smokey and Woodsy goodies from the Symbols Cache, online with a credit card. This e-commerce solution has been in the works for several years. With a new contractor in place, the Symbols team is confident that e-commerce should arrive in the coming year!

For more information, contact Iris Velez, ivelez@fs.fed.us, 202-205-0991

Woodsy Owl & Head Start

The Woodsy Owl-Head Start partnership continues to grow, with new programs signing on across the country. Currently programs in Kentucky, California, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC bring Woodsy's message to pre-school children. In November, CE staff traveled to New Jersey to work with the Northeastern Area, to start a new partnership with the Woodsy Owl program.

For more information, contact Sue Cummings, scummings@fs.fed.us.

Kids in the Woods Photo Contest!

We're almost there folks! More than 120 FS photographers submitted more than 750 photos of 'kids in the woods' to our first KIWF photo contest. The photos are in the final stage of judging, and winners should be announced early in the New Year.

For more information, contact Sandy Frost, sfrost@fs.fed.us, 202-205-3761

Upcoming National Events in Environmental Education

- [Association of Partners for Public Lands - 2009 Conference](#), March 2-4, Baltimore, MD
- [National Science Teachers Association - 2009 Conference](#), March 19-22, 2009 New Orleans, Louisiana
- [National EE Week](#) -- Be Water Wise! ! - April 12 - 18, 2009
- [Earth Day](#) - April 22, 2009
- [International Migratory Bird Day](#) - Birds in Culture- Various weekends in May, 2009
- [National Get Outdoors Day](#) - June 13, 2009

Thank You!

Thank you for all you do to connect kids with nature. Please let me know (ssamman@fs.fed.us) if you have any comments about this new newsletter format, or have ideas to improve our communications -- Safiya Samman

Newsletter Contact Info

Conservation Education Specialist
Sandy Frost sfrost@fs.fed.us



✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to sfrost@fs.fed.us by ssamman@fs.fed.us.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



USFS-Conservation Education | 1400 Independence Ave, SW | Stop Code 1147 | Washington | DC | 20250